the number of such Exchanges in the urban areas; if so, the reasons therefor and by when Government propose to bring the number of such exchanges in the rural areas at par with that in the urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) There were 841 Employment Exchanges (including University Employment Information and Guidance Bureaux) in the country as on 31st March, 1989.

(b) and (c) Most of the Employment Exchanges cater to both urban and rural areas irrespective of their location.

Number of Unemployed persons in the country

*269. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons as on 31st December of 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 and March 31st, 1989;

(b) the date when the practice began to strike-off those names from the employment registers, who did not seek renewal each year and whether every person (registered in the live registers) has informed of this new practice so that he or she could seek for renewal if he or she wished to continue his or her name there;

(c) whether this practice brings down the total estimated number of the unemployed; if so, what is their number;

(d) whether the placement number of about 388.5 thousand in 1985 came down to about 328.5 thousand in 1988; if so what it was on 31st March, 1989; and

(e) the reasons for the fall in placements since *1985?*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) The number of persons registered at the Employment Exchanges in the Country, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, is given below:

	(In lakhs)
As on 31st December	
1985	262.70
1986	301.31
1987	302.47
1988	300.50
As on 31.3.1989	303.05

(b) With effect from 1-1-1984, the renewal period is 3 years and as such the registrants are not required to renew their registration every year. The registration is liable to be cancelled if it is not renewed in time. In the Identity Card issued to the registered candidates, the next date when renewal is due is indicated.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. The number of placement during January-March 1989 was 69.1 thousand.

(e) Placements by Employment Exchanges depend, inter-alia, on the number of vacancies notified to them.

Amendment in Provident Fund Act

*270. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to make some amendments to the Provident Fund Act to make it more stringent enabling the attachment of the personal property of the directors of a company defaulting in the payment of the Provident Fund in order to recover the defaulted amount and to render its non-payment a non-bailable offence and for setting up special courts for the speedy disposal of default cases, etc;